

The Speaker has constructed a bizarre rule and amendments that are designed to fail. It is time for supporters of the Republican contract to sue for breach of contract, or maybe to invoke the ultimate term limits in November 1996 and vote the rascals out.

#### TERM LIMITS

(Mr. LOBIONDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, since the 1st day of the 104th Congress, I have been proud to join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to change the way Congress does business.

This week, we will vote on the most important reform yet—term limits. Opponents argue that we do not need term limits since we have elections.

Yet from 1976 through 1994, 9 out of every 10 incumbents were re-elected. Even in 1994, the re-election rate was still 90 percent.

Term limits will give the American people more elections in open seats. They will bring new Members to Congress who have different experiences and fresh ideas.

That is what the American people want. Recent polls consistently show that two-thirds of the American people support term limits.

And the American people will be watching to see who supports real congressional reform, and who votes for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for final passage of term limits.

#### TERM LIMITS FOR INCUMBENTS

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, we heard about the cycle of dependency and people living off the taxpayers' money.

And who was saying it?

The same Republicans who have been getting a Government salary for 20 or 25 years, and today are going to talk about fake and phony 12-year term limit.

Last week, Republicans said "you get 2 years to learn job skills on your own, no job training."

But, the gentleman from Florida, sponsor of a 12-year limit, says he needs a longer learning curve to master this job.

Last week, they pointed to pictures of alligators and said that is a welfare recipient.

And then they got a pat on the back.

This week, I have pointed out the hypocrisy of Republicans who support term limits as long as it does not cut into their career, and I am lucky if I don't get whacked over the head.

Last week, I heard about tough love.

Well, this week I want to offer that same kind of tough love to my Repub-

lican friends who are having a tough time kicking the congressional habit. If you love this place, tough.

Vote for term limits that are retroactive. If you have been here 12 years, you are out.

□ 1115

#### AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS BENEFITS FROM MULTILINGUAL SOCIETY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, America has a secret weapon in the dog-eat-dog world of global, economic competition: language.

If you don't believe me ask the Japanese. When asked what was the most important language for world trade, a Japanese businessman once replied, "The most useful international language for world trade is not necessarily English, but rather the language of your client." It makes perfect sense. Customers would much rather buy a product from someone who speaks in a language they can understand.

America's secret weapon is the 9.9 million children who come from homes where a language other than English is spoken. These children can help America crack Japanese, Russian, and Latin American markets by speaking to global customers in languages they understand.

Our biggest mistake would be to waste our tremendous language resources by following the simplistic drumbeat of English-only narrow mindedness.

Support American competitiveness and reject English-only.

#### TERM LIMITS

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my opposition to the constitutional amendment of term limits.

Mr. Speaker, term limits of Members are already in the Constitution. According to article II, subsection 1, the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen by the people every 2 years. So we already have term limits, and for those people, I find it very ironic, Mr. Speaker, for the people who talk the most and the loudest about term limits are the people who have served in this body for over 12 years.

So if we really want term limits, I make the suggestion let us lead by example. I want every Member who supports term limits to sign the term-limits pledge to our contract, which provides they would serve "x" number of years and then resign from office.

So if you really are for term limits, then I suggest the Members of this body sign the pledge to say, "I will voluntarily limit my term by a year certain," and if you really want to lead, lead by example and not by taking up some amendment that probably will not pass in the disguise of the Contract With America. Let us have a contract with our district and resign from office after 12 years.

#### CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of this week the Department of Labor will be hosting a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of passage of the Mine Safety and Health Act. Although I will not be able to attend that ceremony, I do want to call it to my colleagues' attention, and commend those in government, industry, the mining work force, and others, who have helped, over that period of time, to make our country's mining industry the safest in the world.

Anniversaries are a time not only to look back but to look forward. Clearly one of the major challenges over the coming years, in all Government programs, is to determine how can we assure the best use of the taxpayer's dollar. We know now what maybe Congress did not appreciate 25 years ago, that we cannot afford to do everything, and so we have to make sure that when Government spends money, it is getting the most value for the taxpayer's dollar.

In that regard, I would note for my colleagues that the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends over \$550 per year per covered employee, while its sister agency, OSHA spends about \$2.84 per covered employee. We should determine whether it is good use of taxpayer dollars to continue to duplicate many of the functions performed by these two agencies. Just as is true with OSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends too much time inspecting safe work sites and enforcing trivial requirements.

Over the coming weeks and months, I hope to examine those issues and see whether the answers given 25 years ago remain the right answers today for allowing our country's mining industry to be competitive in a tough world marketplace, while continuing the improvements that have been made in worker safety in this very important part of our Nation's economy.

#### PROPOSED CUTS TO STUDENT AID THREATEN AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Mr. BALDACCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)